



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: September 16, 2004

VOTING MEMBERS:	Patty Bietry, Steve Bowman, Jack DeLisio, Bill Gillette, John Merklinger, Brian Peartree, Diana Pfersick, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan, Tim Warth and Richard Zwaga
NON-VOTING MEMBERS:	Tim Czapranski, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager, Larry Mancine, Dave Pierce, Ed Riley, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner
OTHERS ATTENDING:	Mike Catalano (Monroe Ambulance), Alex Chadis (Henrietta Ambulance) and Lt. Bill Empey (Rochester Fire Department)
EXCUSED:	Dick Barrett, Tom Coyle, Steve McClary and Scott Miller
ABSENT:	None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:02 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

The pledge of allegiance was given to our flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by to approve the minutes from the June meeting by Brian Peartree, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gillette. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was discussion on the voting positions on the board. Rural Metro and Monroe Ambulance brought to the table the possibility of those agencies having a vote, mainly due to their call volume. After some discussion, the make-up of the board will be reviewed and the background into those decisions will be reviewed. The second discussion centered on alternate representative voting. Does the voting agency or the agency representative have the vote? The center of discussion was if an agency's alternate representative could vote while replacing the assigned agency. Chairman Larry Vaughan will work with the County Legislature to get some background and Brian Peartree, Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee will be looking at our procedures.

The other question that arose was “Are our votes proper if alternates vote, and what recourse is there if our votes are challenged?

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – Chairman Larry Vaughan reported for Vice-Chairman Dick Barrett. Fire Coordinator Ed Riley has asked the battalion coordinators to investigate the radio frequencies that each County agency is licensed to use. Upon getting this information, the committee will try to recommend a County frequency numbering system.

Digital Paging Committee – Rich Verdouw reported that there is a Transition Plan currently in process. Steve Bowman told the Board he will send an update to all departments every 2 or 3 months to let everyone know where we stand on this issue, as well as gathering information which will be used to create an updated department survey to see if a department needs assistance to become user compliant. Steve Bowman stressed 2 critical points that the Board needs to be aware of- inbound frequencies and user devices.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – Diana Pfersick distributed a rough draft of what this new document might look like. After some discussion, it was decided that the battalion representatives would bring this draft to their departments for review and report back to us at our next meeting.

BATTALION REPORTS

Battalion 1 - No report.

Battalion 2 – Dave Timmons expressed a concern in his battalion; there have been questions regarding the cost of new pagers. Some departments have heard figures higher than what the actual cost would be. The estimated cost was cleared up at our meeting, and hopefully will avoid any future discrepancies.

Battalion 3 – No report.

Battalion 4 – Commissioner Bill Gillette expressed two concerns. The first was regarding the Letter of Intent to approve our new Board members. Chairman Larry Vaughan was informed that this letter has been sent to the County Legislature and we are waiting for approval. The second concern was that of appointing a County representative to the Fire/EMS Communications Board. Steve Bowman will check on these and report back to us at our next meeting.

Battalion 5 – Patty Bietry reported that she and Diana Pfersick were reappointed as representatives to the Fire/EMS Communications Board. They know of no new issues or concerns at this time.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Merklinger reported the following: They have a software fix for the modem failures on the MDT fixed Stations. Currently they have about 20% of the stations complete. Our goal is to complete all stations by 9/30. They will be upgrading and updating the I/Q controllers for the MDT system the last week of September or first week in October. It may mean 1-2 hours of down time but hopefully not. New color codes are in place for those who do not know. Access to them is via the HAN.

The ECD was reaccredited by the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch (NAED) and by the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for three more years each. The 911 CAD system should be hooked up in Ontario County by the end of next week. This will allow Ontario County to see the Monroe County CAD. This will help with Fishers Fire and with incidents along the thruway. Remote CAD is installed at Gates Fire and they will be working on Perinton Ambulance next. This will give them CAD access in the event of dispatching being done at either of these agencies. Requested that the issue of closest commercial be placed on the next agenda due to liability issues. Prior to the next meeting John will meet with Rural Metro and with Monroe Ambulance to explore ideas. John Merklinger was appointed as a board member to the E-9-1-1 Institute in Washington DC. The institute supports the congressional E-9-1-1 caucus. It was formed by Eshoo, Clinton, Shimkus and Houghton.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

There were no other issues or concerns needing to be addressed at this meeting.

A motion was made by Dave Timmons to adjourn, seconded by Patty Bietry. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 21st, 2004, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Larry Mancine, Executive Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board